

NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT.

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health,**

**Surveyor,**

AND

**Sanitary Inspector,**

**1925.**

**H. B. MAPLETON, M.D., D.P.H.,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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# Newton Abbot Urban District.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. 1925.

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**PHYSICAL CHARACTERS.** The core of the town is situated in the level basin of the Lemon, which debouches on the Teign Valley. Many of the lower houses stand on the alluvial soil, which forms the delta of these rivers. This valley is flanked by hills from 200 to 300 feet high, on which numerous villas and bungalows have been built. During the last two generations the town has extended in various directions on the slopes of the hills, and also along the valley towards Torquay. The main streets are as a rule wide ; but in the older part of the town, chiefly Wolborough Street and East Street, some of the intervening spaces are occupied by Courts, of which there are about 20, containing in the aggregate 140 houses.

The geological formation of the hills on the Wolborough or southern part of the district is greensand, gravels and limestone, while in the Highweek, or northern parish, shales predominate. In the lowlying valleys of the Teign and Lemon alluvial soil and clays are the main features.

**OCCUPATION.** The chief industries in the town are the locomotive and coach repairing shops of the G.W.R., a large tanyard, and clayworks. These afford employment for several hundred workers, the great majority of whom, with their families, live in the town. Newton being the centre of a large agricultural district, with railway and road facilities in various directions, has an important weekly market, where much business is transacted. It is also a tourist centre, has many residential attractions, and therefore supports a considerable body of retail tradesmen.

No special diseases have come under my notice as the outcome of any local condition of employment.

**RAINFALL** at Highweek was 41.22 inches, which, though considerably less than the excessive figure of the preceding year (48.08), was still well above the average (for 24 years)—37.14. January (6.77), February (5.03), and December (5.30) were the wettest months, while March (.45) and June (.02) were almost rainless.



**AREA AND POPULATION.** The district comprises the parishes of Wolborough, Highweek and Milber, with a total acreage of 4,153. The estimated population for calculating the various rates is given by the Registrar-General as 14,190. The number of inhabited houses is now about 3,449, or 4.1 persons per house. I am unable to estimate separate occupiers.

**SANITARY STAFF** includes Medical Officer of Health (part time), Surveyor (whole time), Sanitary Inspector, who is also Meat Inspector qualified by the Sanitary Institute (whole time). Part of the salaries of the M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector is paid by the Devon County Council.

Drain testing and disinfection are carried out by one of the Council's employees under the Sanitary Inspector.

**RATEABLE VALUE** amounts to £72,991 (Wolborough £50,634, Highweek £19,696, Milber £2,661). Of this £68,061 is on account of buildings, and £4,930 agricultural land. The sum represented by a penny rate is £268.

**BALANCE OF LOANS OUTSTANDING** on March 31st, 1925, was £107,023, of which £51,415 is attributable to housing, £1,565 to sewerage, and £1,035 to public conveniences.

**OUTDOOR RELIEF** in 1925 was given to the extent of £2,501 7s. 8d. This is 3s. 6d. per head of the population as compared with 3s. 8½d. in the previous year.

**VITAL STATISTICS.** The number of deaths registered in the district was 274, of which 113 took place in Public Institutions (Union House 92 ; Hospital, 20 ; Isolation Hospital, 1) ; 85 of these are deducted, together with 3 other transferable deaths, which belong to other districts. On the other hand, the deaths of 8 residents, which took place elsewhere, are added. This gives a nett total of 194 (98 in males and 96 in females) equal to a general rate of 13.7 per 1,000, which is more than a point lower than that of the preceding year (15.0) and also of the decennial average (14.8).

The above rate, however, when corrected by the standardizing factor of .776 (given by the Registrar-General) is reduced to 10.6 per 1,000.

Seventy-one deaths were registered in the first quarter, 41 in the second, 30 in the third, and 52 in the fourth, giving rates per 1,000 per annum of 20.0, 11.6, 8.5, and 14.7 respectively ; thus the first quarter again showed considerably the highest mortality. The percentage of deaths under one year to the total was 4.6, and of those over 65 years,

58.8; these compare with 5.7 and 52.3 in 1924. The average at death was 60 years, as against a decennial mean of 53.8, and 56.3 in the previous year.

**THE INFANTILE MORTALITY**, or deaths under one year to 1,000 births, was 43, as compared with 59 and a decennial average of 77. Three out of the total of 9 were due to bronchitis and 1 each to tubercular disease and debility. None were illegitimate.

There were no fatalities from puerperal sepsis, and only one from other diseases of parturition.

The births of 106 boys and 102 girls give a general rate of 14.7 per 1,000; this is fractionally higher than that of 1924 (14.4), but still nearly two points below the ten years' mean of 16.3. Of the total 208, 4 were illegitimate.

The births for the four quarters of the year numbered 50, 63, 51, and 44, giving rates per 1,000 per annum of 14.1, 17.7, 14.4, and 12.4 respectively. The natural increase or excess of births over deaths was 14, or about 1 per 1,000 of the population.

In the Union House (population about 400) there were 92 deaths, of which 56 were in males and 36 in females. Sixty-five were in persons over 65 years of age, and the average age at death was 66.8 years. Their local distribution was as follows: Newton Urban, 18; Newton Rural, 18; Dawlish, 5; Torquay, 37; Teignmouth, 9; and Ashburton, 5.

With the exception of the birth rate, which remains practically stationary at a low figure, the year shows a good statistical record. The death rate has receded appreciably, while the infant mortality is again small, and the proportion of senile deaths high. The average age of death now touches 60 years. This, too, in spite of a seasonal visitation of whooping cough.

Turning to the chief causes of fatality, phthisis was responsible for 11 deaths (15 in 1924), of which 7 were in males and 4 in females; the rate is therefore .78 per 1,000—decennial average 1.1. Other tubercular disease produced 4 fatalities (1 in males and 3 in females); as in the previous year. Of 13 deaths from tubercular disease in the town, all were in notified persons, except one who was admitted to the Union Infirmary in a moribund condition. Notification is generally carried out very fairly here.

Cancer, with 24 deaths, has slightly declined (26 in 1924); this figure is, however, still in excess of the decennial mean of 20. The rate works out at 1.7 per 1,000. The combined rate for cancer and phthisis was 2.46, while the average for the years 1915-1924 amounted to 2.66.

Mortality from respiratory diseases declined from 43 to 30, and that from disorders of the circulation from 37 to 34; deaths from violence (8) were rather more than normal.

COMPARATIVE TABLE—NEWTON URBAN.

DEATHS FROM	1925		Average of years 1915—1924	
	Deaths.	Rate per 1000	Deaths.	Rate per 1000
Small Pox .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—	1.7	.13
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	—	—	.2	.01
Whooping Cough .. .. .	3	.21	.4	.03
Typhoid Fever, &c. .. .. .	1	.07	.4	.03
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	.24	.18
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. .. .	—	—	.7	3.1*
Influenza .. .. .	9	.63	10	.76
Phthisis .. .. .	11	.78	15	1.1
Other Tubercular Diseases .. .. .	4	.28	4	.30
Respiratory Diseases .. .. .	30	2.1	31	2.4
Circulatory Diseases .. .. .	34	2.4	39	3.0
Cancer .. .. .	24	1.7	20	1.5
Violence .. .. .	8	.56	5	.38
Total Deaths .. .. .	194	13.6	195	14.8
Standardizing Factor .. .. .	.776	10.6		
Population (Estimated) .. .. .	14,190	—	13,142	—
Births .. .. .	208	14.7	222	16.3
Deaths under 1 year .. .. .	9	43*	17	77*
„ between 1 and 5 years .. .. .	11	—	6	—
„ over 65 years .. .. .	114	—	91	—
„ in Union House .. .. .	92	—	101	—
„ in Union House belonging to District .. .. .	18	—	27	—
Average Age at Death .. .. .	60.0	—	53.8	—
TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.				
In County Asylum belonging to District	3		6	—
Other inward transfers .. .. .	5		8	—
Outward transfers .. .. .	88		86	—

\*Per 1,000 Births.



**ZYMOTIC DISEASE.** There were four deaths due to the ordinary zymotic diseases ; three from whooping cough and one from typhoid fever.

Notifications of infectious disease were 65 in number, and included 32 scarlet fever, 4 diphtheria, 3 typhoid fever, 4 erysipelas, 1 *E. lethargica*, and 21 tuberculosis.

**WHOOPING COUGH** was prevalent among school children during the first quarter of the year and caused three fatalities—all between 2 and 5 years. It was not found necessary to close any of the schools.

**DIPHTHERIA** was limited to four isolated cases—one in a child between 3 and 4 years, and three between 10 and 15 years. Two attended the British School. All were removed to Hospital, and made good recovery.

During the year I sent up 46 swabs ; of which 6 were positive. Four of these “ carriers ” went to Hospital for treatment, while the other two were isolated at home till free of infection.

The County Council undertake the examination of swabs ; antitoxin is kept at my office and supplied gratis.

**SCARLET FEVER** was responsible for 32 notifications spread over 11 months ; February and September, with 7 each, showed the highest figures. In the former month the Greenaway Cottage Home was attacked, and between February 2nd and March 6th six out of 22 boys contracted the disease ; while in the autumn another Cottage Home (Brookhill) suffered, and between August 25th and September 28th 8 girls out of 26 were affected.

I made repeated examinations of the children in both these homes, but was unable to discover any missed cases. Thorough disinfection of homes and bedding, etc., was carried out.

There was in no sense any epidemic, and the remainder were mostly scattered attacks. There were, however, three in one family and two in another, but I do not think overcrowding had any effect on the incidence of disease. The children in the two Cottage Homes above mentioned attend the Highweek Senior and Junior Schools ; besides these—schools affected were Highweek Junior, 2 ; British, 3 ; Wolborough Boys, Decoy, and Catholic, 1 each.

Age incidence : Between 2 and 3 years, 2 ; between 3 and 4 years, 3 ; between 4 and 5 years, 1 ; between 5 and 10 years, 20 ; between 10 and 15 years, 3 ; between 20 and 35 years, 2 ; and between 35 and 45 years, 1.

Twenty-eight, or 88 per cent., were treated in Hospital, and there were no fatalities.

No use of either the Schick or the Dick test has been made in this district.

**TYPHOID FEVER.** Three cases were reported. Two of these took place in the general Hospital in January, where the specific disease supervened in one instance on pneumonia and confinement, and in the other on appendicitis, for which there was an operation. The former patient had been intimately associated with a previous case, but I could ascertain no obvious source of illness in the other. As far as the Hospital went, they were in different wards, with different nurses, and close enquiry did not elicit any connection whatever.

The third attack took place at the end of September and was rapidly fatal—after about a week's illness. Here again the origin was obscure, though associated with minor insanitary conditions.

All were between 20 and 35 years of age; one was removed to the Isolation Hospital, and there was one death.

Disease.			Cases notified.	Removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	32	28	—
Diphtheria	..	..	4	4	—
Typhoid Fever	..	..	3	1	1
Erysipelas	..	..	4	1	—
E. Lethargica	..	..	1	1	1

**INFLUENZA** was again prevalent in the early spring months, during which 9 deaths were registered—6 being in persons over 65 years of age, and one in a child under 5. It was, however, of milder type than in other recent years.

**ERYSIPELAS.** Four notifications, all in elderly persons of between 45 and 65 years of age. One was treated in Hospital, and there were no fatalities.



**ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.** One attack in a young adult girl (21). This patient had been ailing for some weeks ; the disease then suddenly became acute and the patient was removed to the Isolation Hospital, where death took place within a few days. As far as I know she had no association with any previous cases, either here or in any other district.

**PHTHISIS.** Seventeen cases, of which 11 were in males and 6 in females. Influenza was said to be the starting point of illness in four instances, and pleurisy in another. Sanitary conditions were generally good—in all cases fair, and ten patients had a separate bedroom, while five shared a room with one other occupant ; in one instance, however, there were only 2 bedrooms for 6 persons. Five had a bad family history in this respect. Five have had sanatorium treatment, while five have since died—one of the latter was a visitor.

Other forms of tuberculosis produced four notifications, in which the foot, cervical glands, and meninges (2) were affected ; the two latter cases were rapidly fatal ; one was a visitor.

I also visit cases previously notified once a year, and keep as far as possible a record of their movements and condition. At the end of 1925 there were about 155 tubercular patients (125 phthisis), excluding those in the Union Infirmary.

There are no tubercular patients that I am aware of engaged in the milk industry.

No cases have been compulsorily removed to Hospital.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..			2				1	
1 ..			1					
5 ..			1				1	2
10 ..		1						
15 ..	1	1			1			
20 ..	6	1			2	1		
25 ..	3	1			3	1		
35 ..	1	1			1			
45 ..								
55 ..		1				1		
65 and over ..						1		
TOTALS ..	11	6	4	--	7	4	2	2

**SMALL POX ACCOMMODATION**, which includes an ambulance, is provided by the County Council. I have not personally performed any vaccinations or re-vaccinations.

**ISOLATION HOSPITAL.** During the past year 60 cases were treated from the combined area, viz.: 48 scarlet fever (28 Urban, 20 Rural); 4 typhoid fever (1 Urban, 3 Rural); 5 diphtheria (4 Urban, 1 Rural); 1 erysipelas (Urban), and 2 E. lethargica (1 Urban, 1 Rural).

Besides these, 4 diphtheria carriers were isolated till free from infection.

There is an ambulance in connection with the Hospital; bedding is dealt with by a steam disinfecter on the premises. Rooms are fumigated with Gabriel's steam spray apparatus.

**GENERAL HOSPITAL** provides about 40 beds for patients from Newton and the surrounding district; this is supported entirely by voluntary effort. The Guardians are contributors, but the District Council gives no subsidy. This institution is now undergoing extensive alterations for the purpose of affording increased accommodation both for general and private patients; provision is also being made for a larger nursing staff.

In addition to the above there are about 150 beds in the Union Infirmary.

The motor ambulance belonging to the St. John's Ambulance Division is always available.

**MIDWIVES ACT** is administered by the County Council; there are four practising midwives in the district. Two of these are District Nurses, attached to the parishes of Wolborough and Highweek; the U.D.C. make a grant of £20 and £15 respectively per annum towards their salaries.

There is a health visitor (Miss Parsons) who also attends the Infant Welfare Centre (expenses shared between the County Council and the District Council), and the School Clinic (County Council), both of which have a session once a week at the Town Hall. These premises, though adapted for the purpose, are very fair from a structural point of view. There were 135 mothers on the Child Welfare books in 1925.

There is also a V.A.D. Nursing Association in the town.

**SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT** is administered by the Police. The following samples were taken during the year—35 in all:—

Butter	..	..	10	Milk (New)	..	16
Coffee	..	..	1	Oatmeal	..	1
Cream	..	..	1	Pepper	..	1
Lard ..	..	..	1	Sugar	..	1
Margarine	..	..	3			

All the above were found to be genuine.

**WATER SUPPLY** is that of Torquay, and is good and abundant. The gathering ground—entirely uncultivated land—is at Hennock, about 9 miles from the town, at an elvation of 800 to 900 feet above sea level. There are three large reservoirs, and the water is passed through Candy's filters before being delivered to the home reservoir on Wolborough Hill. Thence it is distributed over the whole district, with the exception of a few outlying cottages; the supply is a constant one.

The question of a supply to Mile End has at last been settled. The Torquay authorities agreed to extend the main from Daracombe—a distance of about 400 yards—provided the owners would take in the water. Of the two villas and thirteen cottages concerned, the landlords of one villa and twelve cottages have agreed to this, and the work is now in hand.

Six cottages at Aller depend on a shallow well, of fair quality, but I have had no complaint of any shortage of late years.

**SEWERAGE.** Water closets are general and practically all in the town are flushed; nearly all the houses have a separate closet—except in some of the courts, **but** it is impossible to give the number exactly.

The trunk sewers are of masonry, but the branches, which form the most considerable part, are all modern, or fairly so, and piped. All in the town are brought to one outfall in the marshes, where there are settling tanks, the effluent from which discharges into tidal waters. As far as I know there is no pollution of the Lemon by sewage, though some storm water overflows are connected with it.

There are three or four short sewers in the village of Highweek which irrigate meadow land; the outfalls are managed by the Authority, and are attended to monthly. A few villas here and on Knowles Hill drain into cesspits.



Just now there is a good deal of building taking place at Highweek, and the question of sewage accommodation will at no distant date have to be considered.

The only earth closets which exists are in the rural part of the district, where there is no public water supply, or sewage accommodation; they are nearly all pail privies.

The Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, with adjacent dwellings, has its own separate system of settling tanks with field irrigation.

**DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.** There are on the list 34 milk sellers, of whom 20 are also cowkeepers; the number of milking cows is about 250. They are inspected by Mr. Judd and myself twice a year as a matter of routine, besides other chance visits. There are still shippens with the old rubble type of paving which cannot be thoroughly washed clean; one of the worst has, however, gone out of use for dairy purposes. Otherwise there are few complaints to be made.

Of the 13 wholesalers, Grade A milk is produced at the Seale-Hayne Agricultural College.

No action has been taken as regards tuberculous cattle or milk.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.** One public and another private (registered); there has been no change since 1920 in this respect. The latter is but little used. The new regulations for stamping require that all organs must be seen in situ first, and this proceeding has therefore been abandoned. This is, I think, to be regretted, but unavoidable unless the meat inspector is able to devote his whole time to the work.

Two prosecutions were undertaken—one for selling diseased meat, the other for unsound fish; the defendants were both convicted and fined.

Condemned meat is burnt at the refuse disposal site.

**MEAT SHOPS.** Fifty-four in number were inspected by Mr. Judd, and as a result many store places received attention in the way of cleaning, limewashing and ventilation.

**BAKEHOUSES** are perhaps the most difficult of all places where food is prepared to keep consistently up to the mark, and there is room for improvement in two or three of them. They are visited by Mr. Judd and myself from time to time, and by a resolution of the Council only fuel sufficient for 24 hours may be kept in the bakehouse. Seeing

that coke and coal, being sources of dust and dirt, are enemies of cleanliness, the less they are in evidence the better.

**REFUSE REMOVAL.** House refuse is removed three times a week in the town and twice in the outskirts. It is then taken to the depot adjacent to the sewage outfall, where the paper and other combustible part is burnt, including much organic matter. Rats are kept down by periodic poisoning, and I have had no complaints during the past year of any nuisance arising. The Council have continued to enforce the provision of covered sanitary bins for houses where refuse has to be put out in the streets for collection, and 204 were thus equipped in 1925.

**SCHOOL SANITATION.** All the schools in the town are provided with the public water and properly flushed closets. No structural alterations have been carried out in regard to them during the year. In several ventilation and heating call for attention ; out of 8 elementary schools only two are up-to-date in these respects.

**HOUSING.** The number of houses built somewhat exceeds that of previous years, viz., 49, and consists mainly of artisans' cottages. The sites under development were Abbotsbury, Highweek Village, The Decoy, Milber and Keyberry Park ; these, however, even in the aggregate, are small in comparison with the necessities of the case. The Council have now purchased the Broadlands Estate of 35 acres, an eminently suitable site on the Ashburton Road ; it is proposed to put up 100 concrete cottages to start with, for which a loan has been sanctioned and the work begun. More will follow as occasion arises.

The housing question is still most urgent here ; the position as regards overcrowding is not appreciably better than it was a year ago, and the large number of dwellings not reasonably fit for habitation as modern standards go—or, I may add, anything approaching such a standard—remains a constant quantity. The condemnation and closure of some of these will be a sign that the pressure is relaxing.

During the past five years 180 new houses have been put up ; at 4 persons per house, this means accommodation for 720 people. In that time the population has increased (in estimation) from 13,710 to 14,190, or by 480, so that at present pace has been kept with the needs of an increasing

population, but arrears have not been made up except to the limited extent of housing for 240 persons. Failing the private builder, the Council are now tackling this deficiency on a scale which promises success, especially as such houses are easily and quickly finished and ready for occupation.

Mr. Judd is proceeding with the house-to-house inspection, and again reports much work carried out, the very great part of it being the result of informal or intimation notice; in the years 1921-1925 inclusive no less than 793 dwellings were put in order. This is a record which speaks for itself.

No houses have been condemned; but many of these old properties are just kept weatherproof and habitable till the time comes for scrapping them altogether.

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Number of new houses erected during the year:—

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) .. .. . | 49   |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :              |      |
| (i) By the Local Authority .. .. .                              | None |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons .. .. .                         | 31   |

#### 1.—Unfit dwelling-houses.

- Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. . 705
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. 223
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. . None
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. . 144

#### 2.—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their officers .. .. . 115



## 3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

## A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. 85  
(informal)
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners .. .. 12
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners None
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close None

## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. 59  
(informal)
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
- (a) By owners .. .. 4
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners None

## C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders .. .. None
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. None
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit .. .. None
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. None
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. None

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**PAVING.** The rubble paving in a large Court (III.) in Wolborough Street, and two smaller Courts in East Street, has been replaced by concrete—a great improvement.

## REPORT OF Mr. C. D. WHITE, Surveyor.

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Report of Plans received for the year ending 31st  
December, 1925.

Plans approved by my Council in the year 1925.

Dwelling-houses	..	6	Stables	..	..	..	1	
Garages	..	..	15	Glass Shelters	..	..	1	
Office Extensions	..	1	Hospital Extensions	..	..	..	1	
Stores	..	..	..	4	Cart Sheds	..	..	1
Extensions to Works	..	1	Coal Sheds	..	..	..	1	
Additions to Houses	..	6	Shop Fronts	..	..	..	1	
Garage Extensions	..	3	Bungalows	..	..	..	6	
Offices	..	..	..	1	Shop additions, etc.	..	5	
Lavatory Accommodation	..	5	Pump House and Oil	..	..	..	..	
Shops	..	..	..	6	Tanks	..	1	

Eight dwelling-houses, four bungalows, thirty-six workmen's dwellings and one shop and house habitation Certificates have been granted.

COLERIDGE D. WHITE, Surveyor.

## **REPORT OF Mr. H. JUDD, Sanitary Inspector.**

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To the Chairman and Members of the Newton Abbot Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

Below is given a report of the sanitary work carried out in the district for the year 1925.

### **HOUSING MATTERS.**

The number of houses inspected is 705. Of these 144 called for and received repairs.

Included in the above are 223 cottages which were surveyed under the Housing Act, 85 of which were found in varying degrees of disrepair, and up to the end of the year 74 of them had been satisfactorily renovated. The remaining 11 will receive attention in due course.

During the year 49 new houses, mainly of the artizan type, were erected and occupied, as against 41 in 1924.

This comparatively small number has not appreciably diminished the very great and urgent demand for houses to let.

Having regard to the fact that this demand is not being met by private enterprise the Council has for sometime past been endeavouring to secure a suitable site on which to erect cottages on the letting principle. Such a site has now been secured at "Broadlands," where it is proposed, as a first instalment, to build 100 cottages, the contract for which has been accepted.

### **FOOD INSPECTION.**

In April the "Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924," came into force. They provide, among other things, for notices of intention to slaughter to be given (except at public abattoirs, which are exempt); also for the clean handling, storage, and transport of meat.

In our district 108 such notices were received, 107 of which had reference to the slaughter of pigs or "casualty" animals on unlicensed premises. These were attended to, many of them involving visits at night owing to the late hours of slaughter.

There are on our register 54 shops and stores to which the regulations apply. Of these, 11 required and received structural alterations in order to bring the premises into line with the requirements; also eight cases where cleaning had to be done.



Some little difficulty was at first experienced in getting meat dealers at our market to comply with the regulations as to clean overalls and head coverings. Eventually all conformed, and, except for an occasional lapse, this is now a part of the market routine.

Steps have also been taken with a view of obtaining coverings for meat during transport in open vehicles, but owing to the loose phrasing of the clause dealing with this matter (a clean cloth or other suitable material is the wording) coverings are sometimes used which are undesirable inasmuch as it is not always easy to tell whether they are clean or not.

With one exception all our butchers' shops have either fixed or movable glass fronts. As the regulations are at present framed these are not enforceable.

Open meat stalls in our market square have disappeared since the regulations came into operation. There may be some reason for this other than the cost which would be entailed in adapting such stalls to meet the new conditions.

The following articles were condemned by the Medical Officer or myself as unfit for human consumption:—Sheep carcasses, 2; calf carcasses, 2; 96 lbs. of pork; 131 lbs. of English beef; 219 lbs. of imported beef; 2 loins of mutton; 34 pigs' heads; 79 diseased organs, such as livers, lights, etc., making a combined weight of approximately 19 cwts.

Court proceedings had to be taken in two cases; one against a country butcher for exposing for sale diseased meat; the other against a fish hawker for exposing for sale unsound fish. The former was fined £20 and costs, and the latter £1 including costs.

### **SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**

There are only two slaughter houses in our district—the public abattoir and a private one.

The number of animals dealt with at the abattoir during the year is 2,518, compared with 1,916 in 1924.

### **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

There are on the register 78 factories or workshops. These are periodically inspected by the Medical Officer of Health or myself. During the year six infringements of the Act were met with, four of which had been attended to up to the close of the year.

## DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of registered dairies in the district is 34. Of these, 10 are wholesalers and 24 retailers.

Milk is also retailed within our area by a few dairymen whose farms or places of business are in adjoining districts.

Most dairymen attend to the limewashing without reminders from your sanitary department, but where this is neglected informal notices are sent when the matter receives attention. Only five such notices had to be issued during the year.

All dairies and cowsheds are visited by the Medical Officer of Health and myself at least twice a year, the number of visits made being 84.

### SUMMARY.

Houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	705
„ repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	144
„ cleaned	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Yards paved	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Courts paved	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Drains relaid or repaired		..	..	..	..	..	27
„ of new houses certified			..	..	..	..	49
„ tests applied		..	..	..	..	..	248
New closets built	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Closets repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Taps on main water supply provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Offensive accumulations removed		..	..	..	..	..	11
Sanitary refuse bins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	204
Rooms fumigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	76
Lots of bedding, etc., disinfected		..	..	..	..	..	59
Visits made	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,160
Informal notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	390
„ „ complied with		..	..	..	..	..	355
„ „ carried forward to New Year					..	..	35
Statutory notices issued		..	..	..	..	..	34
„ „ complied with		..	..	..	..	..	34
Letters written	..	..	..	..	..	..	538

H. JUDD, Sanitary Inspector.

## ADOPTIVE ACTS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

Model Building By-laws.

Regulations for Common Lodging Houses.

Regulations for Slaughterhouses (L.G. Act, 1885).

By-laws for the Prevention of Nuisances arising from  
Snow, Filth, Dust, Ashes, Rubbish, and the Keeping  
of Animals.

By-laws with regard to

- (i) The cleaning of footways and pavements.
- (ii) Removal of refuse from premises.
- (iii) Cleansing of privies, ashpits, and cesspools (where  
the authority do not undertake this).

By-laws for Pleasure Grounds.

Regulations under the Dairies, &c., Order, 1899.

Parts of Public Health Act, 1925.











